

18. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, comprising the steps of :

- a) supplying said software desired to be protected to a processing apparatus ;
- b) supplying first software and, second software which being specific to a user, to said processing apparatus ;
- c) establishing a communication between said first software running on said processing apparatus, and a remote electronic transaction system ;
- d) verifying said user having a valid account, by said remote electronic transaction system ;
- e) using by said first software, a favourable result of said verification as a pre-condition for determining from said processing apparatus information related to the hardware or/and software thereof, for future reference in step f) below ;

wherein a cost is being charged from said user for the first time said steps a) to e) being carried out ; thereafter

- f) authenticating by said second software, the processing apparatus on which said second software is being used, say, second processing apparatus, basing on at least a part of said information related to said hardware or/and software ;
- g) using by said second software, a favourable result of said authentication as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software desired to be protected on said second processing apparatus, with no charge ;

if the result of said authentication is not favourable, repeat at least said steps c) to e) with said second processing apparatus, without re-charging from said user said cost .

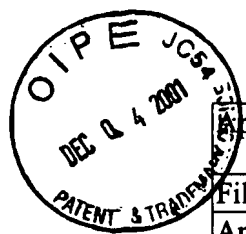
18. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, comprising the steps of :

- a) supplying said software desired to be protected to a processing apparatus ;
- b) supplying first software and, second software which being specific to a user, to said processing apparatus ;
- c) establishing a communication between said first software running on said processing apparatus, and a remote electronic transaction system ;
- d) verifying said user having a valid account, by said remote electronic transaction system [to said first software];
- e) using by said first software, a favourable result of said verification as a pre-condition for determining from said processing apparatus information related to the hardware or/and software thereof, for future reference in step f) below ;

wherein a cost is being charged from said user for the first time said steps a) to e) being carried out ; thereafter

- f) authenticating by said second software, the processing apparatus on which said second software is being used, say, second processing apparatus, basing on at least a part of said information related to said hardware or/and software ;
- g) using by said second software, a favourable result of said authentication as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software desired to be protected on said second processing apparatus, with no charge ;

if the result of said authentication is not favourable, repeat at least said steps c) to e) with said second processing apparatus, without re-charging from said user said cost .



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Sir,

Amendment on New Claim 21 Dated Oct., 19, 2001

Pls amend claim 21 by using the accompanying replacement sheet 22.

The change being made is merely changing "the status"(last line) with "said validity status".

Respectfully submitted,

Ho Keung, Tse.

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21. A method for verifying identity of a user of a data processing apparatus, comprising the steps of :

receiving, by said data processing apparatus, information specific to a user and necessary for accessing an account of said user ;

verifying said account being valid, by an electronic transaction system, by use of said information received by said data processing apparatus;

using by said data processing apparatus, a favourable result of said verification as a pre-condition for providing user access to at least a part of the functionality of said data processing apparatus ;

wherein said access being provided without charging said account and said at least a part of functionality being not related to said validity status of said account.

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21(First Time Amended). A method for verifying identity of a user of a data processing apparatus, comprising the steps of :

receiving, by said data processing apparatus, information specific to a user and necessary for accessing an account of said user ;

verifying said account being valid, by an electronic transaction system, by use of said information received by said data processing apparatus;

using by said data processing apparatus, a favourable result of said verification as a pre-condition for providing user access to at least a part of the functionality of said data processing apparatus ;

wherein said access being provided without charging said account and said at least a part of functionality being not related to [the] said validity status of said account.